

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

DPW-01 OIC-04 SR-02 ORM-03 AF-10 DRC-01 /159 W

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R 241443Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PRM, PFOR, ICRC, LE

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: BEIRUT 6823

SUMMARY: DR. IBRAHIM KARMA OF MFA PHONED JUNE 21 TO INFORM US THAT HE TEMPORARILY HANDLING ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS AND TO REHEARSE OLD SAW ABOUT NECESSITY OF GOL ABSTAINING ON PRG ADMISSION QUESTION. WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR THAT KARMA REALLY WISHED THAT ICRC HAD LET DECISION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE NOT RPT NOT TO ADMIT PRG STAND RATHER THAN RAISING SUBJECT ONCE AGAIN, EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT GOL REPLY TO MAY 17 ICRC IN THAT VEIN (I.E., ENDORSE DECISION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE OPPOSING PRG PARTICIPATION), THEREBY REACTING NEGATIVELY WITHOUT NECESSITY OF CASTING FORMAL NEGATIVE VOTE. KARMA GRASPED THIS APPROACH ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO PERSONS WITHIN MINISTRY WHO WILL MAKE ACTUAL DECISION RE GOL RESPONSE TO ICRC MAY 17 NOTE. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. IBRAHIM KARMA OF MFA TELEPHONED EMBOFF MORNING JUNE 21

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TO INFORM HIM THAT FONOFF'S UN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, HADDAD, PRIOR

DEPARTING FOR LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS, HAD DESIGNATED KARMA TO HANDLE ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS. IN FACT, KARMA REPORTED THAT HE HAD BEEN WITH GOL MISSION GENEVA IN RECENT PAST WHERE HE HAD COORDINATED CLOSELY WITH US MISSION. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT "MISSING" ICRC NOTE OF MAY 17 RECEIVED FROM GENEVA BY POUCH AND HAS BEEN FOR SOME DAYS IN HIS POSSESSION. (NEVERTHELESS, WE APPRECIATE US MISSION GENEVA'S EXPEDITIOUS ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING WHEREABOUTS OF GOL COPY.)

2. KARMA BEGAN BY RESTATING USUAL GOL POSITION--THAT, IF ARAB STATES DIVIDED, LEBANON WOULD ABSTAIN. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANGE IN VIEWS OF VARIOUS ARAB GOVTS RE ADMISSION PRG AND GOL WOULD THUS CONTINUE ABSTAIN. HE THEN EXPRESSED SOME ANNOVANCE HAVING FACE THIS QUESTION AGAIN AND SAID THAT HE FELT THERE SOMETHING "FISHY" ABOUT ICRC REOPENING ISSUE. KARMA SAID BASIC DECISION WAS MADE AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED.

3. EMBOFF AGREED THAT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE HAD FACED AND DECIDED QUESTION PRG ADMISSION IN NEGATIVE. HE POINTED OUT TO KARMA THAT MAY 31 NOTE DID NOT CALL FOR FORMAL VOTE BUT MERELY EXPRESSION OF VIEWPOINT. THEREFORE, EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT GOL, IF IT FELT AS KARMA EXPLAINED, MIGHT MERELY RESPOND THAT QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION BY PRG SETTLED IN DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND GOL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DECISION ARRIVED AT DEMOCRATICALLY IN THAT FORUM. THUS, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY APPROVING. OPPOSING OR ABSTAINING ON PRG ISSUE, GOL COULD EXPRESS ITS POSITION FRANKLY AND ACHIEVE WHAT WE UNDERSTOOD TO BE ITS GENUINE FEELINGS ON QUESTION (I.E. THAT PRG SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INVITED TO CONFERENCE IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM). EFFECT OF EXPRESSING THIS VIEWPOINT WOULD BE SAME AS NEGATIVE VOTE.

4. KARMA APPEARED ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THIS SUGGESTION AND SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO ACTING SEC GEN FATTAL AND FONMIN NAFFA WHO WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION.

5. COMMENT: BELIEVE AT PRESENT, WE CAN COUNT ON FOLLOWING FROM GOL: (A) GOL WILL RESPOND TO MAY 17 NOTE: (B) AT MINIMUM GOL WILL NOT EXPRESS ITSELF ON PRG ISSUE THEREBY, IN EFFECT, ADOPTING POSITION OF ABSTENTION IN PRESENT CONTEXT; (C) THERE

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STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT GOL WILL PRONOUNCE ITSELF CONTENT WITH DECISION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON PARTICIPATION AND THEREBY EFFECTIVELY VOTE AGAINST ADMISSION OF PRG. WE PLAN CALL ON KARMA AND POSSIBLY OTHER MFA OFFICIALS IN COMING DAYS AND WILL FOLLOW UP TO PUSH ALTERNATIVE UNDER (C) ABOVE.

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